

CLIPPINGS

1. Uwagi ogólne

Tekst *Clippings* jest adresowany głównie do studentów kierunków humanistycznych, a także studentów innych kierunków zainteresowanych współczesnym językiem angielskim.

2. Poziom zaawansowania: B2/B2+

3. Czas trwania opisanych ćwiczeń: 20 minut

4. Cele dydaktyczne

Dzięki przykładom z życia codziennego (wyrazy, które zostały skrócone) studenci mogą się przyjrzeć, w jaki sposób język podlega zmianom z przyczyn praktycznych (łatwość wymawiania, pisania i komunikacji), a także wzbogacić swój zasób słów o pojęcia uwzględnione w ćwiczeniach. Może również służyć jako uzupełnienie tematu zmian zachodzących w języku.

5. Uwagi i sugestie

Ćwiczenia powinny być przeprowadzone w parach. Prowadzący może wyznaczyć limit czasowy na ćwiczenia 3, 4 i 5 (przy czym wskazany jest krótszy czas na ćwiczenia 4 i 5). Można włączyć komponent współzawodnictwa (który zespół pierwszy dostarczy poprawnych odpowiedzi do ćwiczeń 4 i 5).

Temat na ogół budzi zainteresowanie, gdyż niektóre skróty tak dobrze przyjęły się we współczesnym języku, że poznanie ich formy pierwotnej może wywoływać spore zaskoczenie.

CLIPPINGS

1. Consider these two words: 'flu' and 'influenza' and answer the questions.

1. Do they have the same or different meaning?
2. Which words do you think appeared first, the longer or the shorter one?
3. Which word do you think is used more often? Why?
4. Can you explain what clippings are?

2. Read the text below and find answers to the questions.

1. What two types of clipping are distinguished in the text?
2. Which type is more common?
3. What current trend does Rob Kyff mention in his article?

Sometimes Hatchet Jobs Beget New Lingo

By Rob Kyff

PART I

We love to cut words down to size. When the term "mobile vulgus" became unruly, we chopped it to "mob." When "pantaloons" seemed a few sizes too big, we tucked it to "pants." When "abdominals" bulged, we buffed it to "abs."

Speaking of abs, here's a trim six pack: cab (cabriolet), gab (gabble), bra (brasiere), deb (debutante), dis (disrespect) and fan (fanatic).

Sometimes we ask the barkeep to pour a short one instead of a double: rum (rum-bullion) and whiskey (usquebaugh). And once in a while we even see double: Specs is short for both specifications and spectacles.

All the aforementioned abbreviations are formed by clipping off the back portion of a word. But once in a while we shorten a word by deleting its first part. Off with its head!

In many cases this fore-clipping (technically called "aphaeresis") involves deleting the first letter: lone (alone), cute (acute), special (especial), spy (espy), pert (apert), mend (amend) and live (alive).

Sometimes we clip a couple of letters: fend (defend), sport (disport), peal (appeal), stain (distain), ply (apply), fray (affray) and tend (from both attend and intend).

The words "apert" and "distain," of course are now obsolete, but even the old-fashioned term "drawing room" is the product of fore-clipping; it comes from "withdrawing room."

In recent years, dropping the first part of a word has become downright 'rendy, er... trendy. Teenagers named Topher (Christopher), Tricia (Patricia) and Zandra (Alexandra) now head to the mall (pall-mall) in the 'burbs (suburbs) to escape their 'rents (parents) and eat za (pizza). Speaking of escape, I wrote this column while vacationing in the 'Dacks, a fore-clipping I use for Adirondacks.

PART II

Now here's your chance to play executioner. Can you behead each of these words to form its abbreviated form?

1. Miami Hurricanes, 2. magazine, 3. kayak, 4. attitude, 5. potato, 6. askutasquash, 7. trombone, 8. alligator, 9. telephone, 10. turnpike, 11. helicopter, 12. airplane, 13. raccoon, 14. periwig, 15. violoncello, 16. omnibus, 17. cantaloupe, 18. caravan, 19. Vietnam, 20. Afro

Source: *Sometimes Hatchet Jobs Beget New Lingo*, http://articles.courant.com/2008-06-17/features/words0617.art_1_fore-words-abbreviations, access: 7 March, 2016.

3. In pairs do the quiz in Part II of the article. Then compare your results with the answers you will get from the Teacher.

4. Study the words below. What are the full forms of the following clippings?

board ad/advert lab gym rep fridge vet sitcom sci-fi limo
nightie demo doc comfy champ pro fax MC/emcee

5. How do you shorten these words in conversational, colloquial use?

photograph mackintosh newspaper taxi-cab bicycle kilogram
popular (music) public house examination microphone

KEY

1. 1 – the same meaning, 2 – the longer one, 3 – flu (because it's easier to say, much more common, 'influenza' sounds strange, etc. – SS' suggestions), 4 – some common words which are shortened, especially in spoken English. In some cases, the short form is more common and the full form sounds too formal or too strange
2. 1 – back-clipping and fore-clipping, 2 – back-clipping, 3 – fore-clipping, especially proper names
3. 1. 'Canes, 2. zine, 3. yak, 4. 'tude, 5. tater, 6. squash, 7. bone, 8. gator, 9. phone, 10. pike, 11. copter, 12. plane, 13. coon, 14. wig, 15. cello, 16. bus, 17. lope, 18. van, 19. 'Nam, 20. 'fro
4. blackboard, advertisement, laboratory, gym, representative, refrigerator, veterinary surgeon, situational comedy, science-fiction, limousine, nightdress, demonstration, doctor, comfortable, champion, professional, facsimile, master of ceremonies
5. photo, mac, paper, taxi (or cab), bike, kilo, pop music, pub, exam, mic/mike